



MANATABA MESSENGER

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Volume VII Issue I

February, 2009

New CRIT Tribal Council assumes duties



(Above) New Chairman Eldred Enas takes the oath of office. (Right) New Councilman Johnny Hill, Jr. is sworn in by Chief Judge Gary LaRance. (Below) Fish & Game Warden Raymand Aspa, Sr. presented outgoing Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. with a plaque acknowledging him as an honorary Fish & Game Warden, a protector of our lands.



Scott voted new Tribal Secretary and Welsh assumes Tribal Treasurer spot

A new era for CRIT began with the swearing in of a new Chairman, Vice Chairman and several new Tribal Council members on January 2.

Eldred Enas was elected as the new Chairman in the Tribes' elections on December 6. Enas defeated Rayford Patch and Wendell Goodman, Jr. to become CRIT's first new chairman in the past 20 years.

He succeeded Daniel Eddy, Jr. who decided not to run for re-election.

Wayne Patch, Sr. was elected Tribal Vice Chairman over John Laffoon. Patch succeeded Enas in the position.

Four Tribal Council seats were up for election, and they were filled by Merving Scott, Jr., Johnny Hill, Jr., Valerie Welsh-Tahbo and Amanda Leivas-Sharpe.

Welsh-Tahbo was the only incumbent of the council candidates to be re-elected. Previous Councilmembers Dennis Patch and Herman "T.J." Laffoon were not re-elected.

A total of 14 candidates were on the ballot for the four Tribal Council positions.

The new council represents one of the most dramatic turnovers on the Tribal Council in Tribal history.

"This is a time of tremendous change in our country and in our Tribal community," Enas said. "We are both hopeful and confident that we can help lead the people of CRIT through this difficult economic time and continue to improve our quality of life."

The new Tribal Council then selected Scott to serve as Tribal Secretary, and incumbent Dennis Welsh to serve as Tribal Treasurer.

Tribal members voted to recall Daphne Hill-Poolaw in a December 13 special election, and will vote on a new council member to fill the last position on the Tribal Council in a special election on February 13.

Special election scheduled to fill last seat

Eight candidates have been verified for the ballot to fill a vacant seat on the CRIT Tribal Council in the February 13 Tribal Special Election.

The candidates seek to fill the seat of Daphne Hill-Poolaw, who was recalled in a December election.

The candidates for the seat are:

Willy Tahbo
Duncan Fisher
Alvin Ameelyenah
David Harper
Ray Aspa, Sr.
Herman "TJ" Laffoon
Edward Yava, Sr.

Jimmy Alcaida

The Special Election will be held on Friday, February 13. Tribal offices will be closed that day to allow all Tribal members to vote. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The polling locations are:

DISTRICT I — Tribal Administrative Center
DISTRICT II — Headstart Valley School

The new council member will join the new Tribal Chairman, Eldred Enas, and the five other members of the Tribal Council elected in the December regular Tribal elections. The nine-person Tribal Council also includes the two incumbent council members, Dennis Welsh and Richard Armstrong.

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News & Information From Your Tribal Council



Eldred Enas,
Chairman



Wayne Patch, Sr.
Vice Chairman



Mervin Scott,
Jr., Secretary



Dennis Welsh, Jr.,
Treasurer



Valerie Welsh-
Tahbo



Richard
Armstrong



Johnny Hill, Jr.



Amanda Leivas-
Sharpe

New Tribal Council is ready to make imprint on CRIT’s quality of life

Change.

It’s a word that has dominated American politics over the past two years. And it’s a word that has had a similar effect on Tribal politics over the last few months.

As a result, we’re seeing one of the most dramatic changes ever on the CRIT Tribal Council. And when you talk to those new Tribal Council members, the word “change” comes up over and over again.

That’s going to happen when you have a new Tribal Chairman for the first time in two decades.

It’s a time for Tribal members to thank those that have helped lead CRIT over the past few years and who are now stepping out of public service.

But it’s also a chance for CRIT’s leaders and for all Tribal members to take a moment and think about the challenges ahead.

When you talk to each of the new members — and the Tribal Council members who return after this past election — you hear a common understanding of the challenges facing the Tribes.

CRIT must continue to work to survive the current economic downturn, while finding multiple sources of revenue to meet the needs of Tribal members.

CRIT must continue to improve its community services, especially those for children and elders.

CRIT must be open and responsive with its members, in this publication and via other means as well.

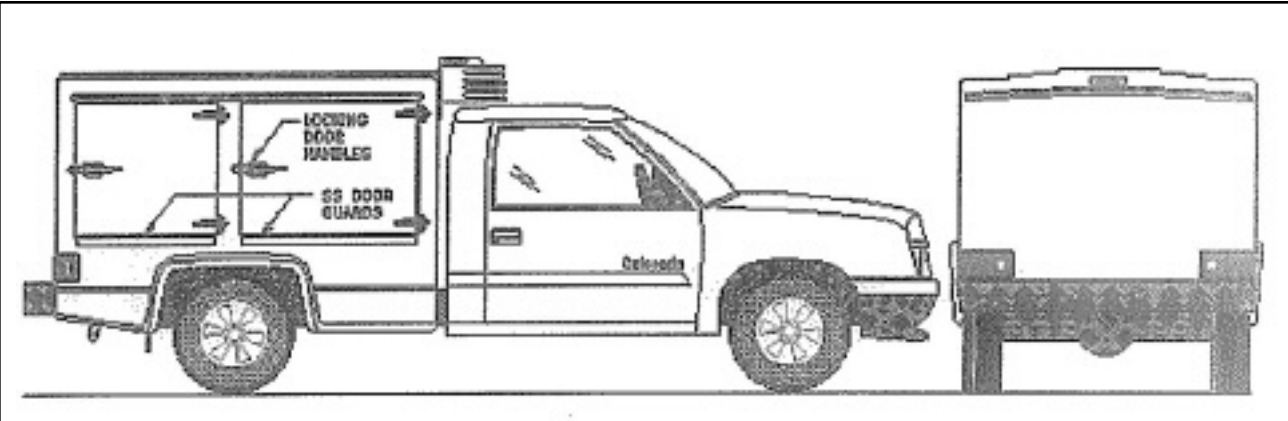
And CRIT must meet challenges in critical areas such as housing, infrastructure and law enforcement.

Everyone on the Tribal Council knows the importance of meeting those goals. And everyone on the Tribal Council knows that those goals are more likely to be met if Tribal members work in concert with Tribal leaders to come up with ideas and solutions to improve our quality of life.

So yes, there have been some significant changes. But the needs of our community remain the same.

And the need to work together to address those challenges will never go away, no matter who serves in our Tribal leadership.

CRIT makes donation to Meals on Wheels



A sketch of the new “Meals on Wheels” vehicle donated by CRIT to the La Paz County Meals on Wheels program. The new vehicle will help the program serve meals to more people more effectively.

CRIT has donated the funds to the La Paz County Meals on Wheels Program to purchase a new vehicle for the program.

The CRIT Tribal Council had originally approved a donation to La Paz County and the program of \$25,000 in May in order to purchase a vehicle.

However, the program recently found a vehicle that is suited to its needs perfectly — but with a total cost of \$36,447.

CRIT recently approved a payment of \$11,447 to cover the total cost of the new vehicle, which will allow the Meals on Wheels Program to distribute food more effectively and improve its overall quality.

The vehicle includes such features as heaters, coolers, roll-out trays and other

amenities that will improve food service.

“We are pleased to be able to help La Paz County and the Meals on Wheels Program with this important purchase,” said Tribal Chairman Eldred Enas.

“Meals on Wheels is an important part of our community that serves Tribal members and La Paz County residents as a whole. We’re glad that we can be of assistance by purchasing this vehicle for them.”

The vehicle is a specially made “HotShot II” custom Chevrolet van specifically designed for food service.

It is large enough for the program’s current workload, and also has an additional 20 percent of its space available to accommodate future growth in the program.

MANATABA MESSENGER

CRIT to have new Chairman after Dec. 6 vote

Shelter construction underway

In This Issue...

We want to hear from you!

The Manataba Messenger encourages letters to the editor. You may submit letters with a maximum of 250 words; letters longer than that will be edited for length.

You are also encouraged to submit story ideas, anniversaries, birthdays and other announcements.

Send letters and story ideas to:
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

You may also e-mail letters to
feedback@critonline.com

CRIT monitoring river environmental issue



This map shows the location of the environmental cleanup effort upriver from CRIT at the Pacific Gas & Electric plant near Topock. The company had dumped a dangerous chemical called hexavalent chromium that has seeped into the groundwater supply. (Information provided by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control).

Concern over chemical found in groundwater near Topock gas facility

CRIT is monitoring an environmental issue up river from the reservation that could have an effect on Colorado River water.

Tribal leaders and government agencies along the river are expressing concern about potential pollution from the Pacific Gas & Electric plant near Topock.

The concerns focus around possible contamination of groundwater and river water by heavy metals such as chromium, which could pose health risks.

The PG&E Topock Natural Gas Plant is located 12 miles southeast of Needles, Calif. and 1/2 mile from the Colorado River. The plans is used to move natural gas to PG&E customers throughout central California.

Government and Tribal officials believe that for 34 years, PG&E used a chemical called hexavalent chromium to prevent rust in the facility.

It is believed that for 17 years, PG&E dumped this chemical in an area adjacent to the plant without following government regulations.

Environmental officials believe the dumped chemicals contaminated the soil and slowly seeped into the groundwater under the plant, and over the years, that contaminated groundwater has moved down a wash toward the Colorado River.

Scientists estimate this plume of contaminated water is now about 60 feet from the river itself.

CRIT is concerned about the impact that such contamination might have on the river, which is the focal point and life blood of the reservation. CRIT uses Colorado River water for virtually every part of everyday life, from drinking water to cooking to farming to recreation. The

river also plays an integral part in Tribal traditions, ceremonies and spiritual references.

The chemical in the soil and groundwater at Topock is known to cause cancer, and can result in birth defects when ingested. The chemical has no taste or smell, so must be detected scientifically.

PG&E has been involved in similar situations before, most notably in Hinckley, Calif., where legal efforts by local residents against the company became the inspiration for the film “Erin Brockovich.”

CRIT is currently working diligently to safeguard Tribal interests and protect the CRIT reservation from any harm or contamination.

A number of local, state and federal agencies are engaged in efforts to deal with the contamination at the site, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Department of Fish & Game, the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management, and the Arizona and California offices of Historic Preservation.

The number of agencies involved is an indication of the importance of the potential cleanup.

Although the government and tribal entities have attempted to address the contamination, it took 11 years from the time PG&E stopped using the chemical at Topock before the company agreed to take voluntary action to address the issue.

The Fort Mojave Tribe sued PG&E in 2005, arguing that the delay in reacting to the situation by the company was unacceptable.

Regular updates on this issue will be provided in the *Manataba Messenger*.

Upcoming Events

BlueWater Resort & Casino events

- On February 7, BlueWater Resort & Casino joins forces with Best in the Desert for the BlueWater Resort & Casino Parker 425 — “The Legend Lives On” off-road race.

This race will start downtown Parker in front of the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce on and finish along the banks of the Colorado River, at the beach of the BlueWater.

For more information on this annual event contact Casey Folks with Best in the Desert at (702) 457-5775 or visit www.bitd.com.

- “The Rat Pack is Back” will be in concert on February 14 in the Bingo Concert Hall. Four highly talented entertainers recreate the characters of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop and Dean Martin and return the audience to a treasured, bygone era.

There will be two shows that night, with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m. for the first show at 6 p.m. and re-opening at 8 p.m. for the second show at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale in the Gift Shop, and are \$20 in advance and \$25 day-of-show.

- On February 20 and 21, BlueWater Resort & Casino will be the host property and title sponsor for the “Dam to Dam BlueWater Big Bass Classic” Bass Tournament.

Local anglers will vie for the guaranteed \$1,000 first prize for this event, with payouts to 7th place based on numbers of entries.

The tournament is limited to first 35 teams to enter.

For more information or to request registration form for this event contact Dempsey Holt at (928) 669-7035 or email dholt@bluerwaterfun.com.

- On March 6-8, BlueWater Resort & Casino will once again be the host property for the Arizona Federation of Dart Association 2009 Arizona State League Singles and Team Championship.

Numerous steel dart leagues and associations throughout the state of Arizona will be participating in this event.

For more information on this event contact Doit Miller at millerdoit@aol.com.

- On March 14 and 15, BlueWater Resort & Casino will be the host property for the annual Parker Ski Marathon.

The International Water Ski racing Association, a division of the National Water Ski racing Association, sanctions this world-renowned water ski race. This race attracts the top marathon water ski racers from around the world. The course for this event will be from the beach at BlueWater, with the turn around at the south end of La Paz County Park and then back to BlueWater. For more information on this event contact Randy Jarrel at (905) 223-5014.

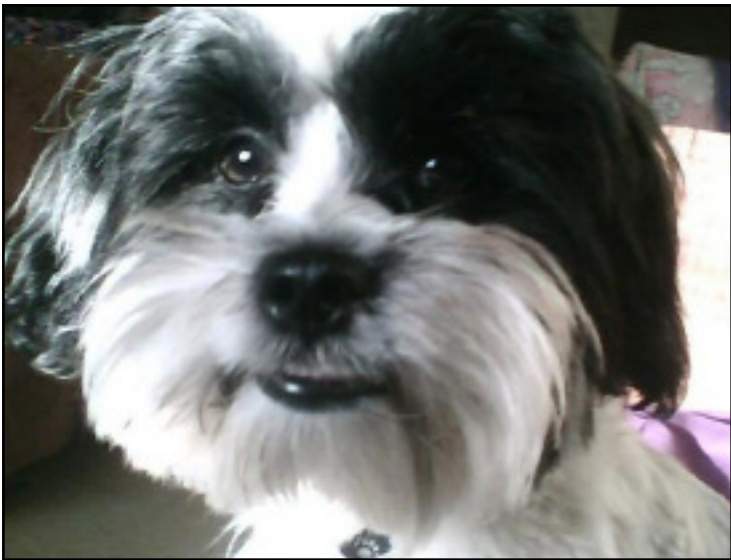
Dig Lounge schedule

The following groups will be performing in the Dig Lounge in February and March, Wednesday through Saturday.

- February 4-7 — “South Bay Rockers,” a four-piece male band playing a wide variety of dance music and classic rock.

Please see **EVENTS**, Page 12

Diverse photos abound in February contest



Submit now, win in April

First place in the December 2008 Photo Contest went to Fawn Begaye for her photo of nephew Rexford Lockwood at a pumpkin patch in Columbus, Georgia this fall. (top right). She will receive \$100.

Second place goes to Amelia Flores for her picture of granddaughter Alyssa Aspa wearing her Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer hat that she made in school (bottom right). She will receive \$50.

Third place goes to Jennilee Martin for her photo of her dog Peanut Eugene Martin (middle left). She will receive \$25.

Honorable mentions go to:

- Justin Moore for his photo of granddad Ronald Moore with the Suns Cheerleaders (top left).

- Esther James for her photo of her two younger brothers and cousin Robert at the Santa Fe Dam in California (bottom left).

Other honorable mentions are listed on the opposite page.

The deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 15.

You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible. Send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn, 7144 E. Stetson Drive Suite 400, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or, e-mail the entry to feedback@critonline.com.

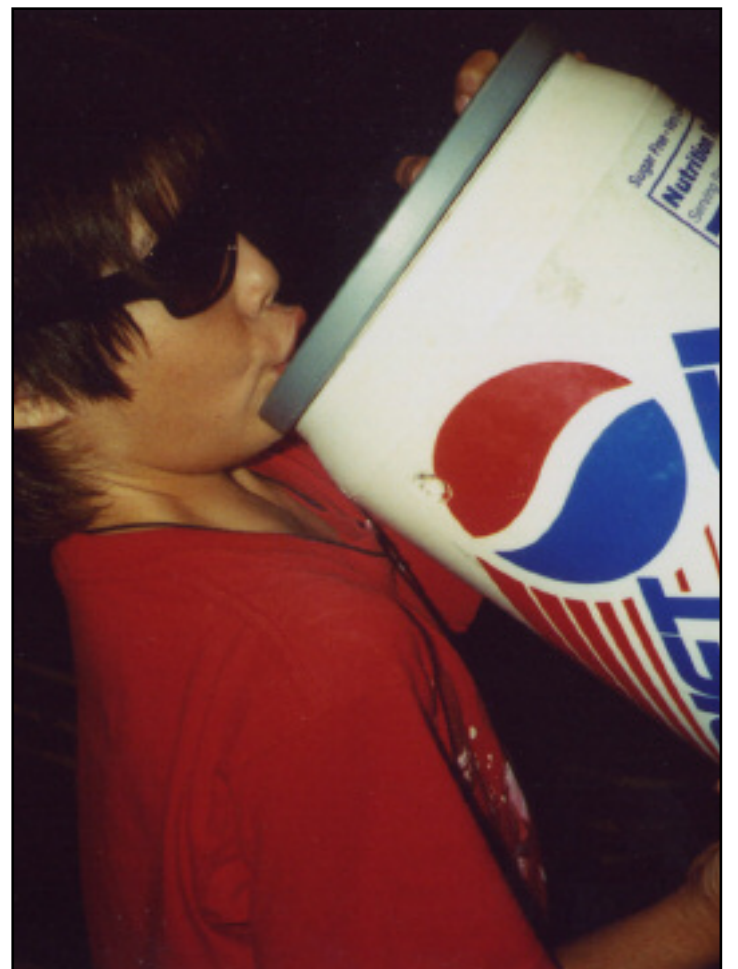




Additional honorable mentions from the February Photo Contest go to:

- Neil Flores for his photo of a clown with Amelia Flores and Alaine Harper at a recent birthday party (top right).
- Estelle Fisher for her photo of her Queenabella's first happy face drawing (middle right).
- Darci Luddington for her photo from her family reunion (bottom right).
- Lindsey Thompson for her photo of husband Eugene Thompson and his first deer (above).
- Hanna Tiger for her photo of grandson David with an extra-large drink (below).

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for the February Photo Contest. For information on how to submit photos for the April contest, see the photo caption on Page 6.



MEET YOUR NEW TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tribal Chairman Enas sets goals for council, government

On January 2, 2009, Eldred Enas became CRIT’s first new chairman in 20 years. But that doesn’t mean he lacks for experience.

Enas had served for a total of 14 years previously on the Tribal Council, including in the position of Vice Chairman. Still, his landslide victory over two other candidates surprised even him.



Eldred Enas

“I was surprised I won with that many votes,” he said. “But I think it shows that the time was right for new leadership and that there was a change needed in the way our Tribal Government is run.”

Enas takes office at the time when the worldwide economic downturn is being felt close to home in just about every way, so he said it’s impossible to pick just one or two priorities and focus on them.

“Everything is a priority right now, and we can’t just list one over another,” he said. “With

“Everything is a priority right now, and we can’t just list one over another. With the recession the way it is now, we want to survive it and reestablish the name of our Tribe as a leader of other Tribes. We will hopefully use the next four years to make the CRIT Reservation a better place to live for our members.”

— Eldred Enas
Tribal Chairman

the recession the way it is now, we want to survive it and reestablish the name of our Tribe as a leader of other Tribes.

“We will hopefully use the next four years to make the CRIT Reservation a better place to live for our members.”

Enas assumes the role of Chairman as part of one of the largest turnovers on the Tribal Council in CRIT’s history, but said he is confident that the new council members will get up to speed quickly.

“Once they’re exposed to what they need to do, they have their own ideas and will work to

formulate them into new policies,” he said. “We’ll work to incorporate not just the thoughts of Tribal Council members, but the ideas from all the people of CRIT we’ve talked to over the years who have ideas of their own.”

Enas particularly wants to improve the level of communication between Tribal members and their Tribal Council, so that members have their voice heard on all significant Tribal issues.

“We all have an open door policy, and anyone is invited to come in and talk to each and every Tribal Council member and express their views,” he said. “All members can come in just to visit, and we will be here and available to talk with them.”

Enas said it was an extraordinary honor for him to be selected as Tribal Chairman, a role in which he will join many of the great people in CRIT’s Tribal history.

“We want to thank everyone for how they voted and will take their trust into our hearts and work to do what’s right,” he said.

“I want to thank our members for giving me the best Christmas ever this year, and I will always remember December 6, 2008 and their trust and confidence in me.”

Vice Chairman wants open communication

It was a fateful lunch late last year that caused Wayne Patch, Sr. to decide to run for Tribal Vice Chairman.

“I was having lunch at the casino one day and the Tribal Council was having some meetings, and I had some questions about what had been going on,” he said.

“I had been retired, so I didn’t think much of it, but when I thought about it some more I decided I wanted to contribute to helping our people.”



Wayne Patch, Sr.

Patch’s wish was granted on December 6, 2008, when he defeated two other candidates in the Tribal Council elections to become Tribal Vice Chairman.

He said one of his main priorities will be to be open to input from Tribal members on how Tribal Government can work better for them.

“I decided to run to make a difference and to make a change in how we do things,” he said. “One thing I’ve noticed is that we need to listen to the voice of the people more.

“We have four tribes here, and we need to have respect and recognition for all of them,” he said.

Patch was born and raised on the CRIT Reservation. He served in the United States Marine Corps and afterward lived in South Dakota, Oklahoma and Sacaton. He worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs much of that time,

“I decided to run to make a difference and to make a change in how we do things. One thing I’ve noticed is that we need to listen to the voice of the people more. We have four tribes here, and we need to have respect and recognition for all of them.”

— Wayne Patch, Sr.
Tribal Vice Chairman

including in Parker, until retiring about six years ago.

Patch also said he wants to make sure the CRIT Constitution is current and updated, and is indicative of what the people of CRIT believe.

“We need to make sure the constitution reflects the voice of the people,” he said. “I strongly believe they should have a voice on key decisions.”

He also said he wants to focus on taxation issues, health care and taking care of CRIT’s elder population.

Mostly, Patch said he wants to bring a more positive outlook to Tribal government, with a focus on fairness and respect between Tribal members.

“We can’t change the things that have happened in the past, but we can move on with the future,” he said. “This is a new beginning for CRIT, and I hope Tribal members will stand with the people they voted into Tribal Council.”

Patch also said he would like to thank all the Tribal members who supported him and voted for him in the December 6 election.

Scott brings history of experience to new position on Council

The fourth time was a charm for Merving Scott, Jr.

After running for Tribal Council three times and coming close to being elected three times, Scott was voted onto the Tribal Council in the December 6, 2008 elections.

“I wasn’t going to run after running three times and coming close three times, but I was concerned with issues like water and taxation and spending,” he said.

Scott, who works as the Gaming Investigator for the Tribal Gaming Authority, has served



Merving Scott, Jr.

CRIT in other capacities over time, including on the Farm Board. But he recently decided to run for Tribal Council because he wanted to see Tribal Government go in a new direction.

“My wife always said, ‘You’re always complaining, so you should run,’ so I decided to run,” he said.

As part of one of the most dramatic turnovers on the Tribal Council in CRIT’s history, Scott said he believes the new council members will be on the same page.

Please see SCOTT on the top of the next page

MEET YOUR NEW TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT, From Page 6

“Our concerns are the same,” he said. “We have a general purpose to improve the quality of life for the Tribe itself, not only for our members but for the community as a whole.”

Scott has a rich work background, including positions in farming, law enforcement, construction and group home work. He is married and has two step children.

He said his priorities include elder care and

providing programs for CRIT’s youth as part of efforts to improve law enforcement.

“I worked for 30 years with children in various capacities,” he said. “I know from experience that we don’t have enough programs for our children now.”

He said that other priorities include improving the use of CRIT’s farm land and produce, and focusing on improving CRIT’s financial situation.

“Combined, the new council has a lot of issues of concern that will need to be addressed,” Scott said. “But first and foremost is the financial situation. We need to take a lot of steps, both big

and small, to fix it.”

Scott encouraged Tribal members to reach out to the new council and to be a part of the decision making process of Tribal government.

“We need our members to educate themselves on the issues,” he said. “If they don’t feel they know enough about an issue, get some help and do some research so that you can help be a part of the process.”

But Scott said he is optimistic about the future because of the spirit of CRIT members and how they dealt with tough times in the past.

“CRIT has always been known as a group of fighters, but always for the right cause,” he said.

Hill, Jr. brings outspoken personality, work ethic to Tribal Council

Johnny Hill, Jr. says that when he speaks out, he’s often the loudest person in the room — but that’s because what he says always comes from the heart.



Johnny Hill, Jr.

Since being elected to the CRIT Tribal Council on December 6, 2008, he’s going to have a chance to speak out a lot more often.

“I hope I do speak for the people,” he said. “I always speak from my heart and my voice was probably the loudest one during the campaign.”

Hill has worked in construction most of his life, and had been working in farming until elected. He is giving up the work he loves to serve on the Tribal Council — which he said is one of the hardest things he’ll have to deal with.

“I hope I do speak for the people. I always speak from my heart and my voice was probably the loudest one during the campaign.”

**— Johnny Hill, Jr.
Tribal Council member**

“I gave up my whole life running heavy equipment because I hope to help people,” he said. “It hurts me because it’s what I love to do.”

However, he said that he started to consider becoming involved in Tribal Government in 2008 because he wanted to change the tone of how Tribal issues are discussed.

“I want people to know that there’s a right way and a wrong way for people to be treated, and we shouldn’t be fighting,” he said. “It’s going to be a hard road, and we’ll have to take on a lot of problems.”

Hill said his priorities will include dealing with tax issues and making sure CRIT uses its lands in a proper manner, including ensuring Indian preference for Tribal land use.

Hill is also well-known for his work to preserve the Chemehuevi language, and was featured in a documentary called “The Linguists,” which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008.

Hill said his primary reason for running for Tribal Council was his love for the people of CRIT.

“I care about them very much,” he said. “It’s a little scary going into this position, but we can’t turn back. I hope people will bear with us for the time being and know that nothing will come easily.”

Hill encouraged all Tribal Members to work together, and to approach him and the other Tribal Council members directly if they have questions or ideas.

Leivas-Sharpe draws upon experience with several Tribal entities

After working in a number of different capacities for CRIT over the years, Amanda Leivas-Sharpe has figured out what she’s good at.



Amanda Leivas-Sharpe

“I’m a task master,” she said. “I like to go in and get things done and move onto the next challenge.”

That attitude will serve her well in her role on the CRIT Tribal Council. Leivas-Sharpe was one of several new Tribal Council member elected in the December 6, 2008 election.

Leivas-Sharpe had been serving CRIT as Director of CRIT Head Start. Before that, she worked in law enforcement, Behavioral Health Services, Legal Aid and in several other capacities — mostly involving helping out the youth of CRIT.

“Anything having to do with kids, I’ve been right there,” she said.

The third time was a charm for Leivas-Sharpe when she ran for the Tribal Council, as she finally

“I will still work the same way. People can come to me now as a council member and if they need help I will always do what I can to help them. There’s going to be a lot of changes, and some changes people will like, and some they won’t. But I would just tell people to weather the changes and see how things turn out.”

**— Amanda Leivas-Sharpe
Tribal Council member**

broke through after two previous tries. She said that the need for change was what inspired her to run again.

“There was a lot going on and people were finally banding together and wanted change,” she said. “I always had the desire to serve, but hearing what people were saying really made me want to do it.”

Leivas-Sharpe said that she will focus on many of the issues that face CRIT today, such as making sure the Tribes’ finances are in order.

She said she would advocate examining each department and making sure resources are being

used effectively.

“There are a lot of things going on in the community, and we really need to take a close look where the funds are focused,” she said.

She also said she wants to restore the faith of Tribal members in their elected officials as well.

“I think we’ve lost some respect for what the Tribal Council does, so hopefully this new council can restore that respect in the public eye,” she said.

With such a history in the community, Leivas-Sharpe’s reputation as someone who is accessible to Tribal members is already known.

She said that approach to working with others will not change as she assumes her role on the Tribal Council.

“I will still work the same way,” she said. “People can come to me now as a council member and if they need help I will always do what I can to help them.”

“There’s going to be a lot of changes, and some changes people will like, and some they won’t,” she added.

“But I would just tell people to weather the changes and see how things turn out. It will take some time.”

MEET YOUR NEW TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Welsh-Tahbo eager to begin work with new Tribal Council members

While the 2008 CRIT Tribal Council Elections resulted in one of the largest turnovers in Tribal Council history, one familiar face that will return to the Council is Valerie Welsh-Tahbo.



Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

She was re-elected to her third term on the Tribal Council, and said this will be an interesting time in CRIT's history.

"There's going to be a learning curve for those who were elected along with me," she said. "However and whenever they would like my help, I will keep the lines of communication open to them."

Welsh-Tahbo said that it will take time for the new council members to acclimate themselves, but that she's excited to work with them.

"This is a new experience for us," she said. "We've always had some senior people retained

"There's going to be a learning curve for those who were elected along with me. However and whenever they would like my help, I will keep the lines of communication open to them."

**— Valerie Welsh-Tahbo
Tribal Council member**

on the council in my time, so we will have some new challenges."

Welsh-Tahbo said she was grateful that she received so much support from Tribal members during a time of such great change on the Tribal Council.

"I was really appreciative of all the votes that came in," she said.

"It's not something I take for granted, especially with so many candidates. I hope those who supported me see me as someone willing to work with everybody."

Along with working to improve Tribal

communication, Welsh-Tahbo said her priorities for her next term will be to work to "clean up" Tribal codes and ordinances to make sure they are current and relevant.

She also said she wants to make sure Tribal finances are responsibly managed, and explore more diverse economic development opportunities, such as natural resources, tourism and utilities.

"The casinos are taking a back seat to other revenue sources in a lot of tribes across the country," she said. "What's coming to the forefront is natural resources and other enterprises."

Welsh-Tahbo said she also wants to finish up a Tribal Resources Directory that will allow members to easily find and access Tribal services, and to have CRIT's boards and commissions become more of a vehicle for public input.

"Changes don't just come overnight," she said. "We just want people to know to call in, that our lines are always open and our doors are always open."

Enrollment asks all members to update address information

Current information critical for voting, communication with Tribal members

The CRIT Enrollment Department is asking all Tribal members who may have moved in the past few months to make sure their current address and contact information is current with the Enrollment Department.

This information is important for several reasons. It allows the Tribes to communicate effectively with members about elections and other ongoing issues, and ensures that members receive their copy of the *Manataba Messenger*.

Tribal members who have moved in recent years or believe for some other reason that their contact information may not be current should contact the Enrollment Department directly at (928) 669-1240.

www.critonline.com

Breaking News & Updates

Key Tribal information

Past issues of the Manataba Messenger

Contact info for Tribal departments

Submit feedback to the Messenger

And much, much more!



Birthdays & Announcements

Birthdays

• Happy 17th Birthday to Antonette Gilchrist from Mom, Dad, Brothers and Sisters.

• Happy Belated Birthday to Kailan S. Harper. He turned 5 years old on December 8. We wish him the best for the new year and love him very much. From Dennis Harper.

• HAPPY BIRTHDAY goes out on February 6 to Ursula Harper. "You're like fine wine — you get better with each coming year!!" From Dennis Harper.

• HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY to our oldest Granddaughter Brittlee Jade Harper way out in Buckeye, Arizona. Grandma and Grandpa think you are very special and love you very much! From Dennis Harper.

• Happy Belated Birthday Mom, Ephraim, and Lindsey! From Sarita and D.

• Wishing My Baby Boy Kobe Lee Baran a Happy 1st Birthday February 19!!! I love you baby Kobs;) — Bo & Laynee Baran

• Happy 18th Birthday to Chandel Sharp February 27! From: Mom, Grandma, Grandpa and your son Ethan!

• Happy 1st Birthday to Ethan Sharp February 7. From: Your mom, dad, Grandmas, Great Grandma, Great Grandpa, Aunts and Uncles and your cuz Jayde.

• February 9 — I would like to wish my Baby Girl Winnie Scott a Happy 7th Birthday. I love you! Much Love from Mom, Dad, Brother Sylaus, Cousins Tamera, Sweetie and Baby Owen Sharp Jr., Auntie Mina, Grandparents Rev. Sheldon & Valerie Swick.

• February 11 — We would like to wish Barry Martin a Happy Birthday. We hope you have a good one. We Love You. From Lari, Sylaus (Big Boy) and Winnie.

Valentines

• Darrick Lee Short, Happy Valentine's Day, Sweetie. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family this past year. Your comfort during my time of need was greatly appreciated and I am thankful you have been there for me when I needed you. Your bestest friend, Jennilee Martin.

• Happy Valentines Day to: Arnold Martin III, Esther James, Clarence Degner, Joseph Degner and Tanaya. From Jennilee Martin.

• Cheyenne Garcia:
Wishing you a wonderful Valentine's Day.
You're such a sweetheart to me.
I'm happy you're in my life.
Love you.
Tami

Anniversaries

• Happy 27th Anniversary! Married at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, 27 years ago we started this magnificent adventure in life. It started with the two of us and now it is just the two of us again. Here's to the best that is yet to come! Dennis and Ursula Harper.

The *Manataba Messenger* welcomes submissions of birthdays, anniversaries, obituaries and other announcements. You may send your submissions via e-mail to feedback@critonline.com.

Current CRIT Job Opportunities

The following are some of the jobs currently open with CRIT, courtesy of the Human Resources Department. For a full listing, visit www.critonline.com.

Position: Baler Operator (two positions)
Department: CRIT Farms
Salary: \$7.25-10 per hour
Close date: February 16 at 5 p.m.

Position: Water Truck Operator
Department: CRIT Farms
Salary: \$7.25-10 per hour
Close date: February 16 at 5 p.m.

Position: Clinical Coordinator
Department: Behavioral Health Services
Salary: DOE (\$60,320-64,480)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Community Health Educator
Department: DHS — Special Diabetes Program
Salary: \$38,000-42,000 per year (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Child Welfare/ICWA Case Worker
Department: DHS — Social Services
Salary: \$11-14 per hour (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Health Educator
Department: DHS — Diabetes Prevention Program
Salary: \$35,000-45,000 (DOE)
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Driver/Custodian
Department: DHS — Senior Center
Salary: \$8-8.50 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Homemaker 1
Department: DHS — Senior Center
Salary: \$8-8.50 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Homemaker 2
Department: DHS — Senior Center
Salary: \$8-8.50 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary/Case Aide
Department: DHS — Child Protective Services
Salary: \$9.50-11 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary/Receptionist/Case Aide
Department: DHS — Office of Social Services
Salary: \$9.50-11 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Secretary/Receptionist
Department: Department of Health Services
Salary: \$9.50-11 per hour
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Tribal Employment Rights Director
Department: Tribal Employment Rights Office
Salary: \$29,000-31,000
Close date: Monday, February 16 at 5 p.m.

Position: Gaming Inspector
Department: CRIT Gaming Agency
Salary: \$23,920-26,648
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Tribal Public Defender
Salary: \$60,000-75,000
Close Date: Open until filled
Position: Pesticide Inspector
Department: Environmental Protection Office
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Sergeant of Police
Department: Law Enforcement
Salary: \$39,998-46,542
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Captain of Police
Department: Law Enforcement
Salary: \$43,497-60,059
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Truck Driver
Department: Solid Waste
Salary: \$14.08 per hour
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Police Helicopter Pilot
Department: Law Enforcement
Salary: \$32,000-35,000 per year

Position: Internal Auditor
Department: Internal Audit
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Park Maintenance Supervisor
Department: Aha Quin Mobile Home Park
Salary: Depends on experience
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Maintenance Worker
Department: Aha Quin Mobile Home Park
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Colorado River Building Materials
Close Date: Open until filled

Position: Fitness/Exercise Specialist
Department: DHS — Special Diabetes Project
Salary: \$20,800-27,040
Close date: Open until filled

Position: Sales Manager/Batch Plant Operator
Department: Sand and Rock Enterprise
Close date: Open until filled

Position: General Manager
Department: Sand & Rock Enterprise
Close: Open until filled

Position: Aftercare Therapist/Substance Abuse Counselor
Department: Alcohol Substance Abuse Program
Salary: \$38,000-45,000
Closing date: Open until filled

To apply or for more information, contact CRIT Human Resources at 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, 85344, or call them at (928) 669-1321.

Internment Camp art exhibition currently open at Parker library

“Beauty in Captivity” highlights the creativity, spirit of internees at Poston

An exhibition of art from the Poston Internment Camp in World War II is currently on exhibit at the Parker Public Library until February 19.

The exhibit, “Beauty in Captivity,” includes items of everyday living plus paintings and carvings made in the Poston and Gila River internment camps.

The exhibition was created by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, which was founded in 1992 by former internees of Poston Camp III and now includes members held at other camps during the 1942-45 relocation of people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The California Civil Liberties Education Program is one of the funders of this exhibition, and it is being presented in cooperation with the Tribes.

As part of the exhibit, a talk will be given on February 19 by Susan Hasegawa, chair of the department of History and Social Sciences at San Diego’s City College.

February 19 is recognized as the Day of Remembrance by Japanese Americans, because it is the anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, which allowed their relocation and incarceration.

The exhibition will close the morning after her talk.

Additionally, the documentary “Passing Poston,” which was filmed on the CRIT Reservation and provides a history of the internment camps, will be shown at the Library on February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Among items on display are be artworks painted on scrap lumber including crate ends and other items found around the internment camps.

Toys and decorative objects made using homemade carving tools and recycled objects demonstrate resourcefulness and a desire to create beauty among the internees.

Two objects are of particular interest. One is a whirligig toy made in Poston III camp by Fudo Takagi from memory, based on a design created by his father Kogoro M. Takagi during the 1930s. A photograph from the family’s post-war Arizona visit shows the remains of a Poston barrack and Fudo’s younger brother Hideo holding a similar toy.

The other item of interest is a nameplate carved with a sharpened bedspring for Clara Breed. Breed was the San Diego children’s librarian who maintained a wartime correspondence with “her” children and whose efforts to make sure they were not forgotten was chronicled in the 2006 book “Dear Miss Breed.”

Breed also helped the children’s parents by writing letters on their behalf to resolve citizenship and other legal questions. The nameplate is considered one of the treasures of the collection.

For more information call the library at (928) 669-2622 or CRIT Education at (928) 669-8831.

Photos capture holiday fun from 2008 season



The holiday season was marked by several enjoyable events on the CRIT Reservation. Those included the Fall Gathering, the Veteran's Day Parade, and CRIT's Thanksgiving Dinner, among several other events.

This page features photos from each of those exciting events, which took place throughout the end of 2008.

(Above) Dancers at the annual Fall Gathering, which was coordinated by Ron Charles of CRIT Tourism and took place in late November.

(Below) The CRIT Royalty assist the Veteran's Day Committee by handing out

blankets of honor to all veterans in the audience. Here, Junior Miss CRIT Christa Carter gives a veteran his blanket.

(Top right) Officer Bear of the CRIT Police Department makes his appearance at the annual community Thanksgiving feast at the Irataba Hall.

(Middle right) Thanksgiving feast attendees and appetites.

(Below right) The Pala Band of Mission Indian Singers visit and provide great traditional bird song music for the Fall Gathering participants. Wayne Nelson is lead singer and Leroy Miranda, Jr. seconds him.

Photos courtesy of Valerie Welsh-Tahbo.



2nd Quarter Honor Roll & Perfect Attendance

**Wallace Elementary
Perfect Attendance**

Lucas Harper (4th Grade)
Armondo Dutcher (4th Grade)
Celeste Silva (4th Grade)
Kordell Duckey (4th Grade)
Lainee Scott (5th Grade)
Darian Flores (5th Grade)
Alias Murphy (5th Grade)
Stacia Scott (5th Grade)
Evan Whiteley (5th Grade)
Spencer Moore (6th Grade)
Tianna Robledo (5th Grade)

**Wallace Elementary
Honor Roll**

Jordan Esquerra (4th Grade)
Anferny Fisher (4th Grade)
Kordell Duckey (4th Grade)
Patricia Pena (4th Grade)
Maynard Aspa (4th Grade)
Lainee Scott (5th Grade)
Mariah Sharpe (5th Grade)
Darian Flores (5th Grade)
Cassandra Miller (5th Grade)
Stacia Scott (5th Grade)
Gabriel Leivas (5th Grade)
Maria Trevino (5th Grade)

**Wallace Junior High
Principal’s Honor Roll**

Taylor Gonzalez Bush (7th Grade)
Alayna Amador (8th Grade)
Ashley Harper (8th Grade)

Wallace Junior High Honor Roll

Alex Murphy (7th Grade)
Julia Hill (8th Grade)
Shawni Laffoon (8th Grade)
Isaiah Leal Wood (8th Grade)
Talia Chavez (8th Grade)
Lane Drennan (8th Grade)
Lindsey Fisher (8th Grade)

Samantha Honadick (8th Grade)
Brie Miller (8th Grade)
Zoe Russell (8th Grade)

**Wallace Junior High
Perfect Attendance**

Nina Drennan (7th Grade)
Michael Brenner (7th Grade)
Taylor Gonzalez Bush (7th Grade)
Carrigan McCowan (7th Grade)
Bryan Miller (7th Grade)
Jessica Sharp (7th Grade)
Lorenzo Laffoon (7th Grade)
Shereaf Miller (7th Grade)
Alayna Amador (8th Grade)
Brie Miller (8th Grade)
Samantha Honadick (8th Grade)
Ashley Harper (8th Grade)

Le Pera Honor Roll

Devin Leivas (5th Grade)

Le Pera Perfect Attendance

Olivia Esquerra (Kindergarten)
Alicea Moreno (Kindergarten)
Quenton Yazzie (1st Grade)
Breon Kaibetony (2nd Grade)
Angelina Flores (3rd Grade)
Sidney Has No Horses (3rd Grade)
Mercedes Leivas (3rd Grade)
Jacob Sandoval (3rd Grade)
Lorena Flores (4th Grade)
Marijayne Leivas (4th Grade)
Devin Leivas (5th Grade)
Destinee Swick (5th Grade)
Lisa Logan (6th Grade)
Alfonso Soto (6th Grade)
Marcus Tuchawena (6th Grade)
Magnus Deysie (7th Grade)
Rojelio Flores (7th Grade)

Blake Perfect Attendance

Dominique Van Fleet (preschool)

Alana Russell (preschool)
Phillmore Esquerra (preschool)
Yvette Scott (preschool)
Reese Paddock (preschool)
Paul Begaye (Kindergarten)
Natalie Messer (Kindergarten)
Ryan Warner (Kindergarten)
Clark Jimenez (Kindergarten)
Mariah Moore (Kindergarten)
Eleina Dailey (Kindergarten)
Kenyon Casares (1st Grade)
Alexus Dutcher (1st Grade)
Anthony Flores (1st Grade)
Che Lyn Flood Flores (1st Grade)
Sean Robledo (1st Grade)
Aleesha Begaye (1st Grade)
Ryan Messer (1st Grade)
Elisha Silva (1st Grade)
Taylor Heredia Aspa (2nd Grade)
Jason Amador (2nd Grade)
Shane Robledo (2nd Grade)
Diovianne Miller (3rd Grade)
Tyler Welch (3rd Grade)
Sarah Hunter (3rd Grade)
Gabriel Roberts (3rd Grade)

Blake Students of the Month

Natalie Messer (Kindergarten)
Kalee Esquerra (Kindergarten)
Eleina Dailey (Kindergarten)
Nichalos Aspa (Kindergarten)
Kaleb Welch (1st Grade)
Bobbie Esquerra (1st Grade)
Alice McCabe (1st Grade)
Tyson Drennan (1st Grade)
Jade Humeumptewa (1st Grade)
Misti Poolaw (2nd Grade)
Diva Lomavitu (2nd Grade)
Simon Benn (2nd Grade)
Shane Robledo (2nd Grade)
Sarah Hunter (3rd Grade)
Francine Harper (3rd Grade)

Nominations sought for residents’ group

Officers will help make key decisions for CRIT residential communities

The Colorado River Residential Management Corporation is currently seeking nominations for its Residential Initiates Organizational Team (RIOT). Nominations are being sought for the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. To be eligible, you must be a homebuyer or renter residing in a home managed by the CRRMC and are a contract signer on a property.

The Residential Initiates Organizational Team is a resident organization and its officers represent and present resident issues and concerns to the CRRMC Board.

The organization is made up of clients of the CRRMC homebuyer and renter programs. The Chairperson of this organization holds a seat on the CRRMC Board of Commissioners.

To make a nomination, you may obtain a form from the CRRMC Management Department located on 16th St and Reata in the Desert Sun Housing. Fill out the bottom of the form and submit the whole document. For any other nomination questions phone (928) 669-2293 for more information.

All documents must be submitted in person by the nominee. Make sure you designate the position you are submitting your nominee for. You must sign your nomination document, and all signatures and names will be verified with our client list.

CRRMC gets new phone system

CRRMC has also announced the implementation of a new phone system. The main number for the office is still (928) 669-2293.

If you know who you wish to speak to, push the three digit number as soon as the greeter answers the phone at the 669-2293 number.

- Dennis Harper — Ext. 101
- Morris Sevada — Ext. 102
- Monica Ramirez — Ext. 103
- Cheryl Esqerra — Ext. 104
- Laura Schmitt — Ext. 105
- Claudia S. Harper — Ext. 106
- Front Desk — Ext. 107
- File Room — Ext. 108
- Michalene Miller — Ext. 109

If you listen to the full greeting and message there will be additional numbers to push. These other buttons will directly connect you to the following:

Push 2. Directory. You can spell the name of the person whom you wish to speak with.

Push 3. Maintenance Shop in MoChem. After hours you can leave a message on their answering machine for a work order.

Push 4. CRRMC Administrative offices of the CRRMC.

If you push “0” at any time you can obtain an operator during normal working hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Every call is logged into the phone system whether there is an answer or not so if you leave a message this will ensure a call back.

Council passes domestic violence code

The CRIT Tribal Council recently passed a tough new Domestic Violence Code designed to prevent domestic and family violence and protect victims.

The Domestic and Family Violence Code will protect spouses, cohabitants, non-married intimate partners, other family members living in the same household, and dependent adults. It is also designed to prevent abuse of Tribal elders.

The code becomes effective on February 1, 2009. The highlights of the Code include:

1. The Tribal Police can arrest the perpetrator against the will of the victim if the Police has probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed an offense under the Code.

2. The Tribal Prosecutor may move forward with prosecution even if the victim witness is unwilling to testify against the perpetrator as long as there is sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution.

3. The Tribal Court shall issue a Protection Order to grant a large number of reliefs to the

victim. Violation of a Protection Order by the perpetrator is a criminal offense and the Court can issue an arrest warrant if there's probable cause to show a violation of such Protection Order.

4. A CRIT elder or a dependent adult, a person that lacks understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning his/her person as determined by the courts or qualified healthcare professionals, can be made a temporary ward of the court under the auspices of CRIT Department of Health Services in a domestic/family violence situation. Temporary wardship shall end when a safe alternative care arrangement can be made for the elder or dependent adult.

“Our law enforcement agencies will be vigilant in enforcing this code and in sending a message to the Tribal community that domestic violence will not be tolerated,” Enas said.

Copies of the Revised Code are available on CRIT Official Website, www.critonline.com, and at the CRIT Library.

We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
 If you have a question, story idea, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

26600 Mohave Road
 Parker, AZ 85344
 (928) 669-1233 or
 (928) 669-1223
 feedback@critonline.com

Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

www.critonline.com

Don't forget the
 April photo contest!

Advertise With Us!

Now you can reach the 3,800 members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes directly. *Manataba Messenger*, the official publication of CRIT, is distributed by mail to all members and at newsstands at prominent locations throughout the Parker area, including the BlueWater Resort & Casino.
 For more information, please call (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.

Mega Throw V event coming in March

Fifth year of event includes variety of different music and performances

The Ase S'maav Mega Throw IV will be held on March 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.
 The Mega Throw is a celebration of Mohave culture, music and heritage through the "preservation of the Bird Song and Dance through CRIT Mohave youth," according to organizers of the event.
 This year's invited Bird Singers will feature are Pipa, Illshaw, Kupa, and Cahuilla, as well as other traditional performances and dance.
 Bird songs are songs sung socially by Mohaves, and most importantly, sung during funeral rites.
 The "Mega Throw" is named for the use of the traditional Mohave gourd.
 The popular event includes traditional Mohave music, dancing and dress. Performances include Tribal members and singers from other tribes as well.
 This will be the fifth year of the Mega Throw, which organizers have committed to developing into an annual event.

WHAT: Mega Throw V, a celebration of Mohave culture, music and heritage

WHEN: Saturday, March 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Ahakhav Tribal Preserve

Local attendees are encouraged to bring potluck donations of stew, beans or other food, and are reminded to bring their chairs.
 Admission to the event is free. Activities will also include open Bird Singing, dance contests and an all-around dress, dance and participation contest.
 There will also be a horseshoe tournament, as well as arts & crafts and food vendors.
 Those interested in being arts & crafts vendors must pay a \$25 fee on site, and those interested in selling food must pay a \$50 fee on site.
 For more information on the event, contact Valerie Welsh-Tahbo at (928) 669-2043 or e-mail her at vwtahbo@hotmail.com.

EVENTS,
 From Page 3

- February 11-14 — "Big Happy," with a female fronting a four-piece band playing classic rock and a wide variety of dance music.
- February 18-21 — "Swift Kick," with a female fronting a three-piece band specializing in current dance music along with selection from the 50s through 90s.
- February 25-28 — "Pilot," with a female fronting a three-piece band playing Rhythm & Blues, Top 40 dance, classic rock, old school and disco.

- March 4-7 — "Crossfire," a four-piece male band playing a wide variety of classic rock and dance music.
 - March 11-14 — "High Lonesome Band," a four-piece male band playing a variety of classic rock, blues and classic county music.
 - March 18-21 — "American Made," a four-piece band featuring a female playing a wide variety of classic rock, oldies, Rhythm & Blues, country, Top 40, disco and dance music.
 - March 25-28 — "Swift Kick."
- Billy Joe Preston with Music n' Motion will be in the Dig Lounge every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. playing your favorite songs and videos and Karaoke each night.



COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
 Colorado River Indian Reservation
 26600 Mohave Road
 Parker, AZ 85344

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 Phoenix, AZ
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 always visit us at
www.critonline.com!